

# Boy Scout to Receive Medal for Saving Life of Sister

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## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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48th Year—No. 36

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1961

10¢ Per Copy 48 PAGES

# CITY CHOSEN FOR COURT SITE

## A Penny for your Thoughts

Because of a remark made by an unidentified man on the street that children did not know the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance, this question was asked.

"What does the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag mean to you?"

Lorraine Springer, 9, 22519 Linda Drive.

"It means that we are supposed to love our country and do what we are saying in the pledge. Although I don't exactly understand a couple of words that are in it, I think it means we should respect the flag."

Sandra Childs, 10, 22732 Linda Drive.

"I know what it stands for. But I think those words are pretty big that are used in it. It would be good if simple words were used so that people could understand it better. It means to love your flag and your country."

Mike Rienz, 13, 4903 Milne.

"I believe the pledge to the flag is an oath or a promise to our country. Maybe you call it an agreement that we will stand behind our country and support it in all ways and in turn it will stand behind us."

Patty Briggs, 13, 5334 Linda Drive.

"I think it means pledging your loyalty to the United States in everything that you do. I guess I never really stopped to seriously study it but it is an important thing and should be talked about more."

Jack Martin, 12, 5307 Reese Road.

"It means that you should give full support to your government and your country and the flag that represents it. The pledge is to keep people banded together for one purpose—loyalty to the United States."

## 106,092 in Torrance Now

Torrance's population now exceeds 106,000, a jump of about 6000 over the April 1, 1960, federal census count, it was reported yesterday by the Regional Planning Commission.

According to the estimates released by Milton Breivogel, director of the Regional Planning Commission, the city population is now 106,069 as compared to the count a year ago 100,991.

## Quick Actions Saved Sister, Officials Say

A Torrance Boy Scout has been named to receive a Medal of Merit for quick thinking in saving his young sister's life, it was announced yesterday.

Lawrence Till, 14, who resides at 16815 Delia Ave., was cited by the Boy Scouts of America for saving the life of his sister, Robin, 3, in the yard of the family home last Sept. 12. Lawrence is a Star Scout in Troop 948, sponsored by the North Torrance Lions Club.

Little Robin, wet from playing in the spray of a garden hose, stuck her finger in an electrical outlet. As the current passed through her body, the little tot was "frozen" to the outlet, according to the Boy Scout citation.

Lawrence, seeing his sister's plight, freed her with a flying tackle, and then administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to restore breathing.

His quick action, which was the result of Boy Scout Training, was credited by a physician with saving the girl's life.

Lawrence will receive his medal later this month.

## Council Ducks in Road Case

A report that a contractor was about one-year late in obtaining a permit for work performed on a street in front of the home of Public Works Director Wade Peebles was sent back to City Manager George Stevens for action after the council Tuesday night ducked any decision on what should be done about the case.

Failure to obtain the permit was cited as "definite dereliction of duty in the Public Works Department," in a report made to the council by Stevens.

After Councilman Nickolas Dale failed in a bid to mete out disciplinary action on the case, the council majority voted to refer it back to the city manager as "a management problem."

The council sidestepped another issue when it determined it was "without jurisdiction" in complaints that members of the Torrance Police Officers Assn. had been showing the film, "Operation Abolition," to local groups on request.

A letter from Tom Potts, who identified himself as representing the Social Action Committee of the Pacific Unitarian Church here, asked the council to look into the matter. Several persons, including members of the council and former Congressman Kit Clardy, onetime member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, lauded the officers who were showing the film on their own time, and under the aegis of the association.

Councilmen cautioned the officers to be careful to indicate that the showing of the documentary film was not a city function.

## To Name New School After Grace Wright

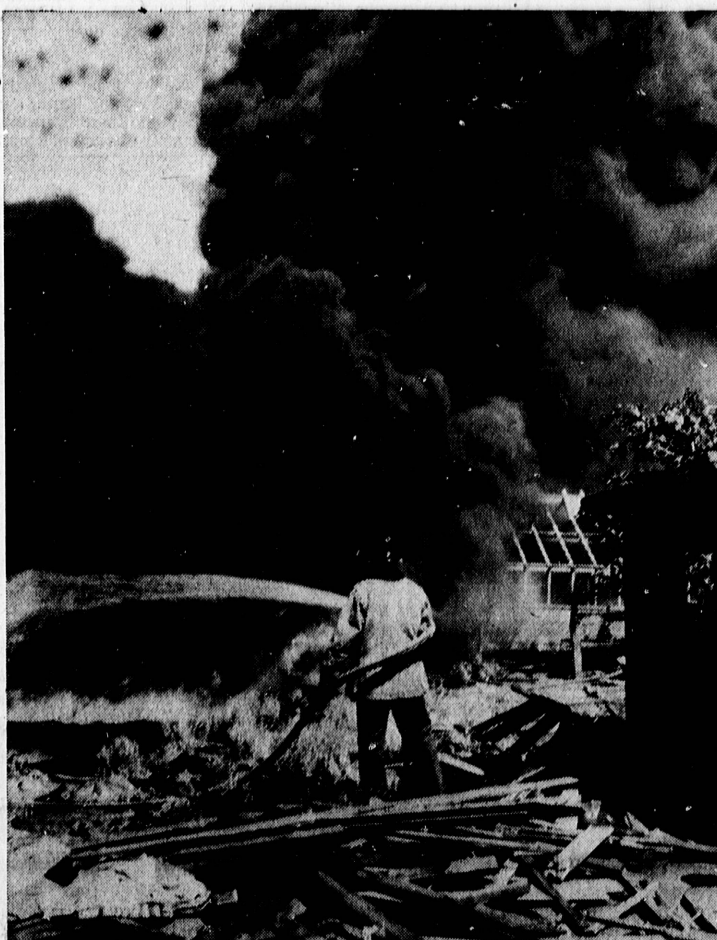
A new school to be located in the vicinity of 236th St. and Ocean Ave. will be named after Mrs. Grace Wright, member of the board of education since it was first organized here in 1947, the board decided Tuesday night.

Members of the board voted unanimously, with Mrs. Wright abstaining, to name the school in her honor as has been done for three other members of the original board. Mrs. Wright will retire from the board at the end of June.

Other schools named for board members include the Evelyn Carr, Carl Steele, and Howard A. Wood schools.

## Fire Stations Open

Fire stations of the city will be open to the public Saturday in observance of Fire Service Day. Demonstrations will be held at the central station at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.



SMOKE PALL . . . Firemen battle flames which raced through storage yard and nursery area on 236th St., in Lomita Tuesday afternoon, burning roofing compound, paper, and a lath house. County firemen quickly brought the flames under control as Torrance firemen stood by. (Herald Photo by Bob Wilton)

## City Demands Delay in Beach Mining Hearing

City officials Tuesday asked Lt. Gov. Glenn Anderson to delay a proposed hearing before the State Lands Commission scheduled for today on a proposal for mineral prospecting rights off Torrance Beach.

City Manager George Stevens informed the council Tuesday night that he had just learned of the hearing, and

said he had sent a telegram immediately asking that the hearing be delayed until Torrance officials could determine the nature of the proposal.

Stevens said he knew nothing of the type of operation proposed, and whether machinery would be moved onto the Torrance swimming beach

to mine the 11-acre site which is being sought.

The report by Stevens recalls earlier proposals to mine the black sand of the popular Torrance Beach area. Such a proposal was made several years ago, but was never put into operation.

City officials indicated Tuesday that they would object to any operation which would be unsightly, or would interfere with use of the local beach as a recreation facility.

Officials in Redondo Beach also are planning to oppose today's hearing, it was reported.

## City Building Boom Continues to Roll

Building permits issued in the city during April reached a total of \$2,444,802 in valuation, it was announced yesterday by Lee Schlens, building superintendent.

Included in the permits for the month were nine new single family dwellings, a duplex dwelling, 37 multiple dwelling units, and five commercial buildings. Total value of the commercial buildings was \$1,296,400, Schlens said.

Permits also included one industrial building valued at \$230,000, 13 other new buildings, 64 alterations to dwellings, and 20 alterations to other buildings.

One dwelling unit was moved out of the city and seven demolished, Schlens reported.

May started off with a bang, he reported, as permits totaling about half a million dollars were issued during the first two days of the month.

Building totals for Torrance during the first four months of 1961 were placed at \$9,609,782.

## News Hailed As Last Big Snag to Plan

Efforts to establish the permanent facilities of the Superior Court in Torrance stood two short steps from reality yesterday after a committee of three judges recommended that the Southwest Superior Court District's branch be located here.

Superior Court Judge Lloyd S. Nix announced Tuesday afternoon that he and his two colleagues, Judges William P. Haughton and Ben Koenig, had voted unanimously to recommend that the courthouse be located on the Torrance civic center where a site has been offered by the city council.

THE COUNTY'S 102 Superior Court judges will be asked to approve the recommendation, and the board of supervisors must approve it. Both approvals are expected to come as matter of course. The judges' recommendations are expected to reach the supervisors by the end of this month.

The recommendation of the three-man committee of judges came less than a week after a public hearing on the matter in Los Angeles at which time Torrance and other cities competing for the court facilities presented cases before the judges.

REPRESENTATIVES of Inglewood and Hawthorne made strong presentations before the committee, but Torrance officials came away feeling they had scored heavily on a number of major points.

The recommendation announced Tuesday afternoon appears to bear out their optimism.

In recommending the Torrance site, the judges said they considered the questions of cost, public transportation, freeway routes, future growth, parking, and population centers.

"THE BEST interests of the district and the court would be served, both presently and in the foreseeable future, if the Southwest District courthouse were located at the Torrance Civic Center," the judges declared.

"This will clearly single out Torrance as the capital city of the southwest part of the

county," Mayor Albert Isen said on being told of the judges' recommendation.

THE SOUTHWEST District Court is one of nine such districts set up two years ago by the Board of Supervisors to offer more adequate court facilities to residents of the county.

It probably will be four or five years before construction of any facilities can be started, it has been indicated.

## Slaying Suspect In Plea

James Edward Blackwell, a Torrance rug cleaner, is scheduled to go on trial June 22 for the murder of the wife of a Long Beach sailor.

Blackwell, 28, of 2011 W. 220th St., pleaded innocent to the murder charge Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. He was held without bail pending the trial.

The Torrance man is accused of slaying Mrs. Helen Margaret Johnson, 29, of Long Beach and leaving her partially clad body in a Carson area field on April 3.

Two days after the discovery of the body by a man reporting to work nearby, Blackwell was arrested by Medford, Ore., police on information broadcast by Torrance police and homicide detectives of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept.

## Top Navy Officer Here on May 20th

Rear Admiral Julian Becton, commander of the Los Angeles Naval Base and senior Naval officer of the area, will head the U.S. Navy delegation participating in the Armed Forces Day observance here May 20.



OFFICIALLY OPEN . . . Crossing Guard K. W. Morrow halts traffic at 214th St. and Normandie Ave. as first Halldale school children are escorted across busy thoroughfare Monday morning. In rear are John Gibson, Los Angeles City Councilman; Mrs. Judson Bowers, Halldale PTA president; and Lt. Tom King, of Los Angeles Traffic Dept. (Herald Photo)



STEEP GRADE . . . Officers Morton Hesse and E. W. Gillette ponder over plight of Ruth Marvette Franzen, 35, of 2700 W. 182nd St., who said she was going home after taking friend home from movie and wound up this way on Carson St. just east of Hawthorne Ave. early yesterday. The driver, who apparently blacked out, was not hurt. (Herald Photo)